

various local governments and local stakeholders are willing and able to use incentives and interdiction measures without being encumbered by the gridlock resulting from federal listing, to increase the Mexican gray wolf population to levels in both states that, coupled with conservation efforts in Mexico, would establish and maintain a rangewide population of Mexican gray wolves that is self-sustaining and managed at levels sufficient to meet scientifically-valid population objectives. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports and endorses immediate delisting of gray wolves in the WAFWA member states from the ESA, either through legislative or administrative means, and that this species be managed by the respective State wildlife agencies.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have joined my colleagues in introducing legislation that would delist the gray wolf from endangered species status thereby returning wolf population management to the respective State wildlife agencies. As my colleagues know, Federal efforts to recover the gray wolf and related subspecies are controversial throughout the West and Midwest including my home State of Arizona.

Officially listed in 1974, the gray wolf was among the first animals protected under the Endangered Species Act. At that time, gray wolves were undoubtedly a broken species, hunted to near extinction by western pioneers. But in the 1990s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched an ambitious wolf repopulation effort in several States where wolves had been eradicated. Federal biologists released dozens of wolf breeding pairs into parts of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho as well as Arizona and New Mexico in the hopes that these so-called experimental populations would reestablish their historic ranges.

In the northern Rocky Mountains, these efforts largely paid off in 2002 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it achieved its population goal of 30 breeding pairs and 300 wolves in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. In fact, the Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Program was so successful at breeding pups that by 2005 they reached 49 breeding pairs and 663 total wolves. Today those numbers stand at over 71 breeding pairs and about 1,700 total wolves, far surpassing the stated goals of the Federal Government's wolf recovery plan. Despite this remarkable comeback, several environmentalist groups have used the judicial process to keep gray wolf populations under various forms of Federal protection, even to the detriment of native deer and elk populations which are dropping dramatically because of so many predator wolves. By keeping wolves locked into federally protected status, State wildlife authorities are legally prevented from rightfully controlling their exploding wolf population. At the same time the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is forced to overextend its resources, reach and welcome on a program that achieved its goals almost a decade ago. This simply cannot continue.

With respect to Arizona, my support for delisting the gray wolf is not a mandate for wolf hunts but rather to establish a path forward for saving the Mexican gray wolf from a failed Federal recovery program and to provide essential protections for livestock growers. If you compare the success of the northern Rockies against the dismal returns of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program in Arizona and New Mexico, you see how Federal mismanagement and judicial activism have combined to hurt both ranchers and wolves. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service introduced 13 wolves in 1998 and estimated that the Southwest should have 100 wolves by now but in fact we have barely topped 42 wolves over the past 12 years. Pup survival in Arizona and New Mexico remains bleak with 31 observed in 2009 but only 7 surviving the winter. Livestock depredations remain a constant concern even though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently rescinded rules that allow ranchers to protect their cattle for depredation. To date, the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program has cost taxpayers roughly \$20 million or roughly \$500,000 per wolf with no end in sight. By removing Federal protections for the Mexican gray wolf, management and recovery responsibilities would be transferred from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the State's wildlife authority, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, which recently voted to support this proposal.

The facts on the ground paint a clear picture that it is time to return management and recovery of these wolf populations to the States. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP. For more than a decade, this international internship program has been enabling outstanding Australian college students to participate in internships throughout the U.S. Congress.

Students participating in the program obtain immeasurable experience through their congressional internships, and participants also have the opportunity to participate in other educational experiences, including U.S. historic site and government agency visits and other learning events. I am proud to be involved in this rewarding and well-rounded exchange program, and I am grateful for the contribution Uni-Capitol Washington Programme interns continue to make in providing valuable viewpoints and helping me serve Idaho constituents.

Gemma Whiting, a UCWIP participant, has joined my staff as an intern this semester. She is studying law/arts at the University of Western Australia, where she is majoring in political science and international relations.

Gemma has spent many hours helping keep my schedule and activities running smoothly, and she has been an immense asset. Her commitment and hard work are appreciated, and we are fortunate to have Gemma as a part of the team. I asked her to share her impressions regarding the program and her internship. She said, "It was an honor to be a part of UCWIP 2011. The opportunity to work in Senator CRAPO's office has been the most remarkable experience. I could not have hoped for a more welcoming and affable office. The insight gained through this opportunity is invaluable, adding a higher level of understanding to the intricate workings of the U.S. Congress and the world's foremost democracy. This internship has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, adding priceless knowledge to my studies in Law and Political Science. I could not have had a more enjoyable or memorable experience thanks to Senator CRAPO's office."

I also commend the efforts of the program's director and founder, Eric Federling, who has utilized his own Capitol Hill and Australia experiences to provide this important exchange opportunity that benefits both Australian students and congressional offices. His interest and skill have been instrumental in shaping an outstanding program.

I look forward to continuing my association with the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, which I have been honored to be involved with for 5 years. I commend Gemma Whiting, Eric Federling and the other Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme participants and interns for contributing to the 12 successful years of this important program that facilitates the valuable broadening of relationships and understanding between our two countries.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ABILITYONE PROGRAM AND THE ARC OF CADD-OSSIER

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I recognize a program which in the last several years has helped more than 45,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment, the AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program is the single largest source of jobs for Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities. The program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills, training, good wages, benefits, while providing greater independence and quality of life.